

REMARKS

Drawings

Figures 1-3 and 6 have now been labeled in the same manner as described in the specification, identifying "nodes" and routing tables".

Claim Objections

In Claim 11 the word "cells" has been corrected to "calls" as requested. This claim has also been amended to form a single sentence.

Claim Rejections – 35 USC § 102

Examiner rejects claims 1, 3, 6, 9 and 12-15 under 35 USC § 102(e) as being anticipated by *Lorenzen et al.* It is respectfully submitted that these claims are patentably distinguished over *Lorenzen* in view of the following remarks.

Claim 1 recites a method of routing calls which can avoid problems of 'looping'. Claim 1 teaches how looping can be avoided by providing, as part of a call set-up request, an indication of at least one node through which the set-up request has passed. The node can then use the information about previous nodes, along with stored routing information, to route the call in a manner which will avoid looping.

Lorenzen does not teach the step of "receiving a call set-up request comprising an indication of at least one node through which the set-up request has passed." The Examiner has noted passages in *Lorenzen* which are considered to provide basis for this rejection, but Applicant cannot find any such basis in these passages. In *Lorenzen*, switches within a network update their routing tables according to acquired congestion information in an attempt to route calls in a manner which will avoid congested parts of the network. In *Lorenzen* there is no teaching, nor suggestion, that a call set-up request should contain information about nodes

through which the call set-up request has previously passed. Thus, claims 1, 3, 6 and 9 are not anticipated by *Lorenzen*.

In Claims 12, 14 and 15 the term 'trail log' is used to refer to the list of nodes through which the set-up request has passed. Examiner has indicated, at the base of page 3 of the Action, that *Lorenzen* teaches the claimed "trail log" feature at col.8 lines 50-58. The passage at col.8 lines 50-58 simply describes a message – called an NPINIT message – which is sent between a network processor and a switch to initialize the switch. This passage does not describe anything that can possibly be equated to a "trail log". The NPINIT message is not a call set-up request, it does not originate from another call routing node and it does not comprise a list of previously visited nodes. Thus, claims 12, 14 and 15 are not anticipated by *Lorenzen*.

Rejected dependent claims 3, 6, 9 and 13 are also considered allowable at least by virtue of their dependency on one of claims 1 and 12.

Claim Rejections – 35 USC § 103

Examiner rejects claims 2, 4-5, 7-8, 10 and 16 under 35 USC § 103(a) as being unpatentable over *Lorenzen et al.* in view of *Funk*.

Lorenzen is deficient for the reasons explained above. *Funk* does not provide any teaching of a call set-up request which indicates nodes through which the request has passed, or of a trail log for use in routing the call-request. Therefore, even a combination of *Lorenzen* and *Funk* does not disclose the features of claims 1 and 15 from which the rejected claims depend.

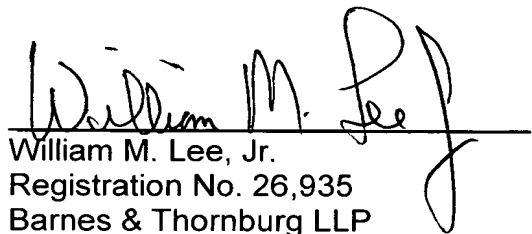
Examiner has indicated that the features of claims 7 and 8 would have been obvious in view of *Lorenzen* alone. The deficiencies of *Lorenzen* have been described above. The Handicap One and Two scenarios described at col.5 lines 22-32 of

Lorenzen add nothing further which would lead a skilled person to arrive at the feature of claim 1, let alone the features of claims 7 and 8.

For the foregoing reasons, Applicant respectfully submits that the claims pending in this application are in condition for allowance. Early issuance of a Notice of Allowance is solicited.

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Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "William M. Lee, Jr.", is written over a horizontal line.

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Fig. 1

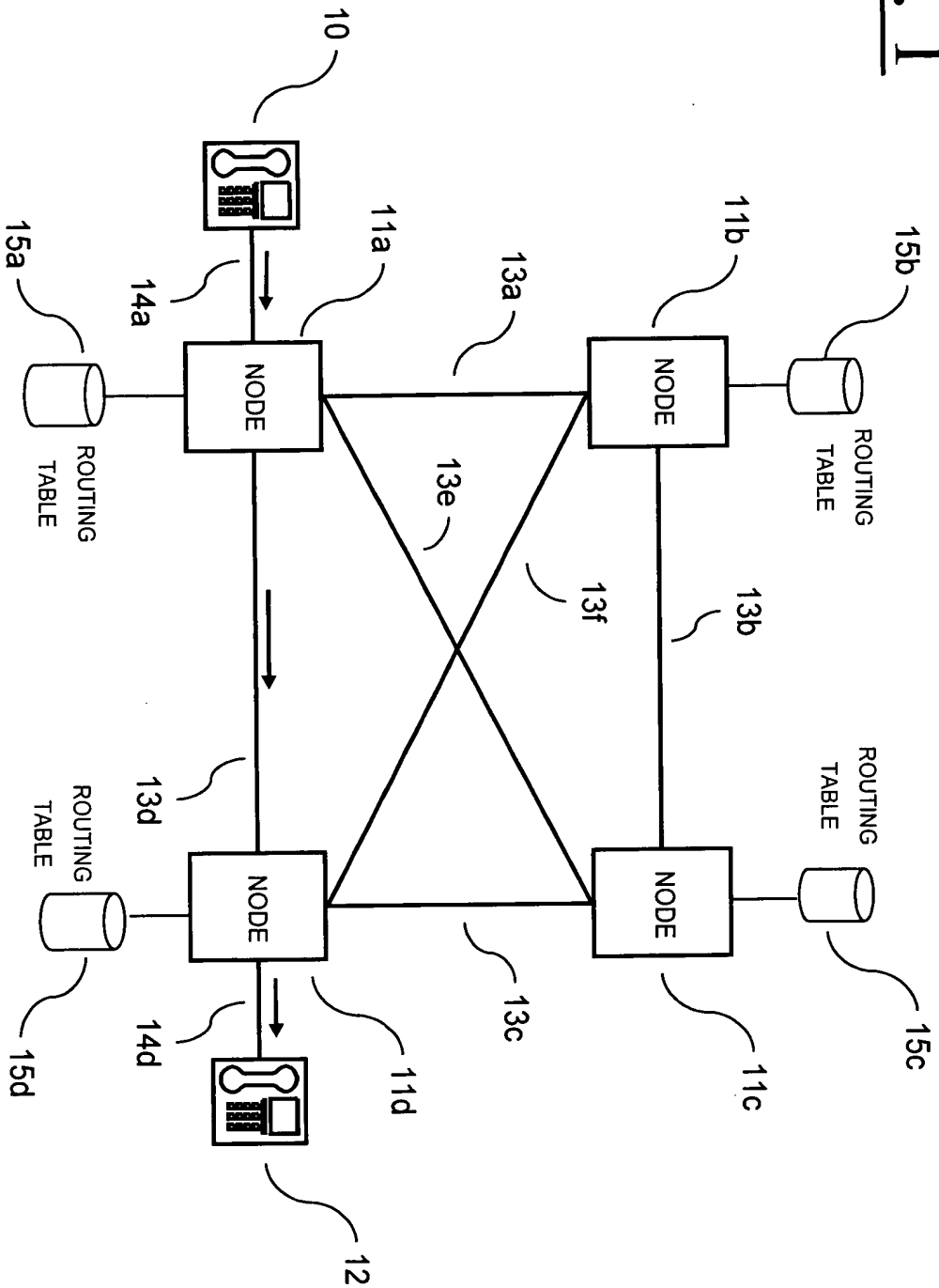


Fig. 2

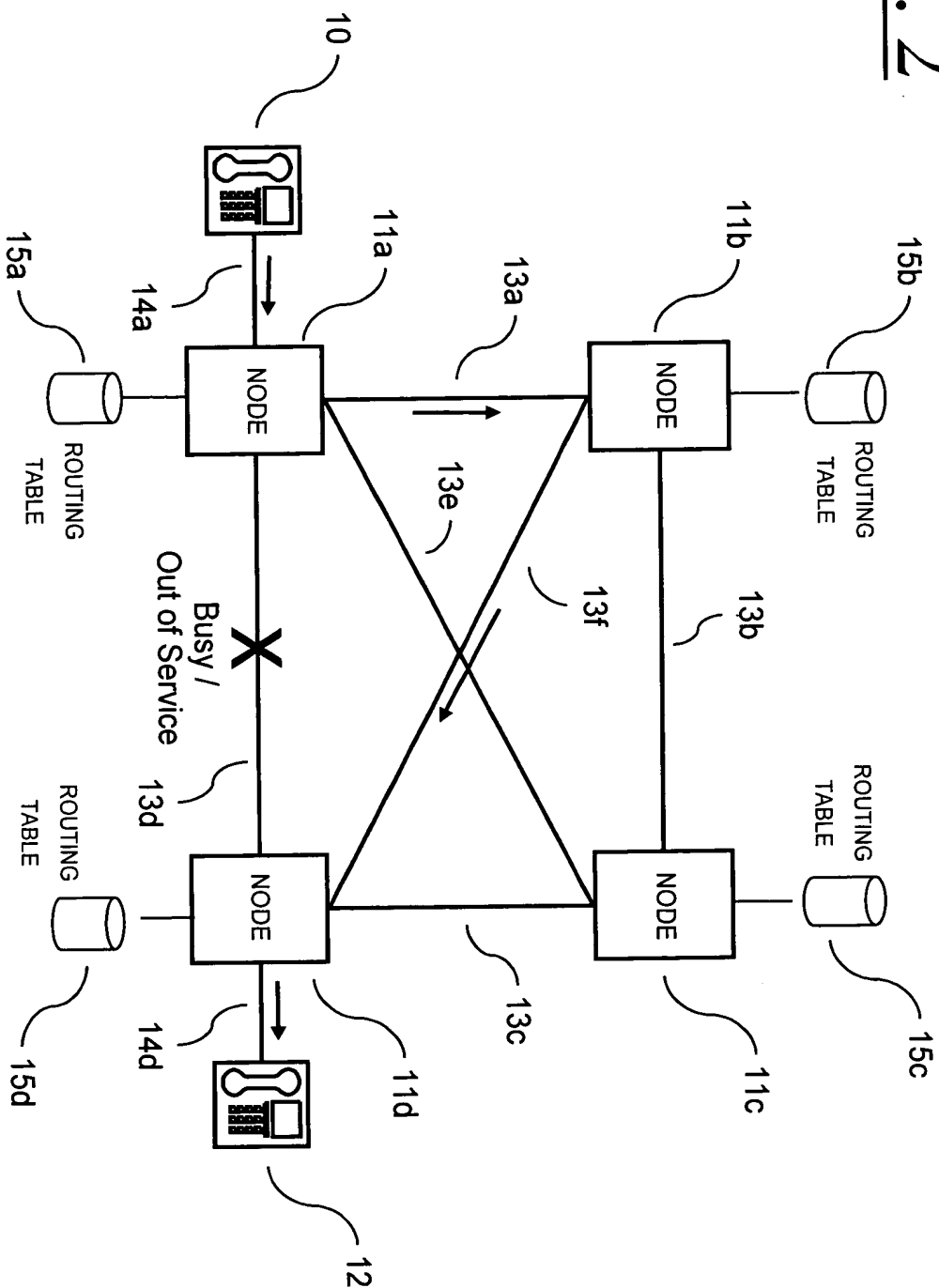


Fig. 3

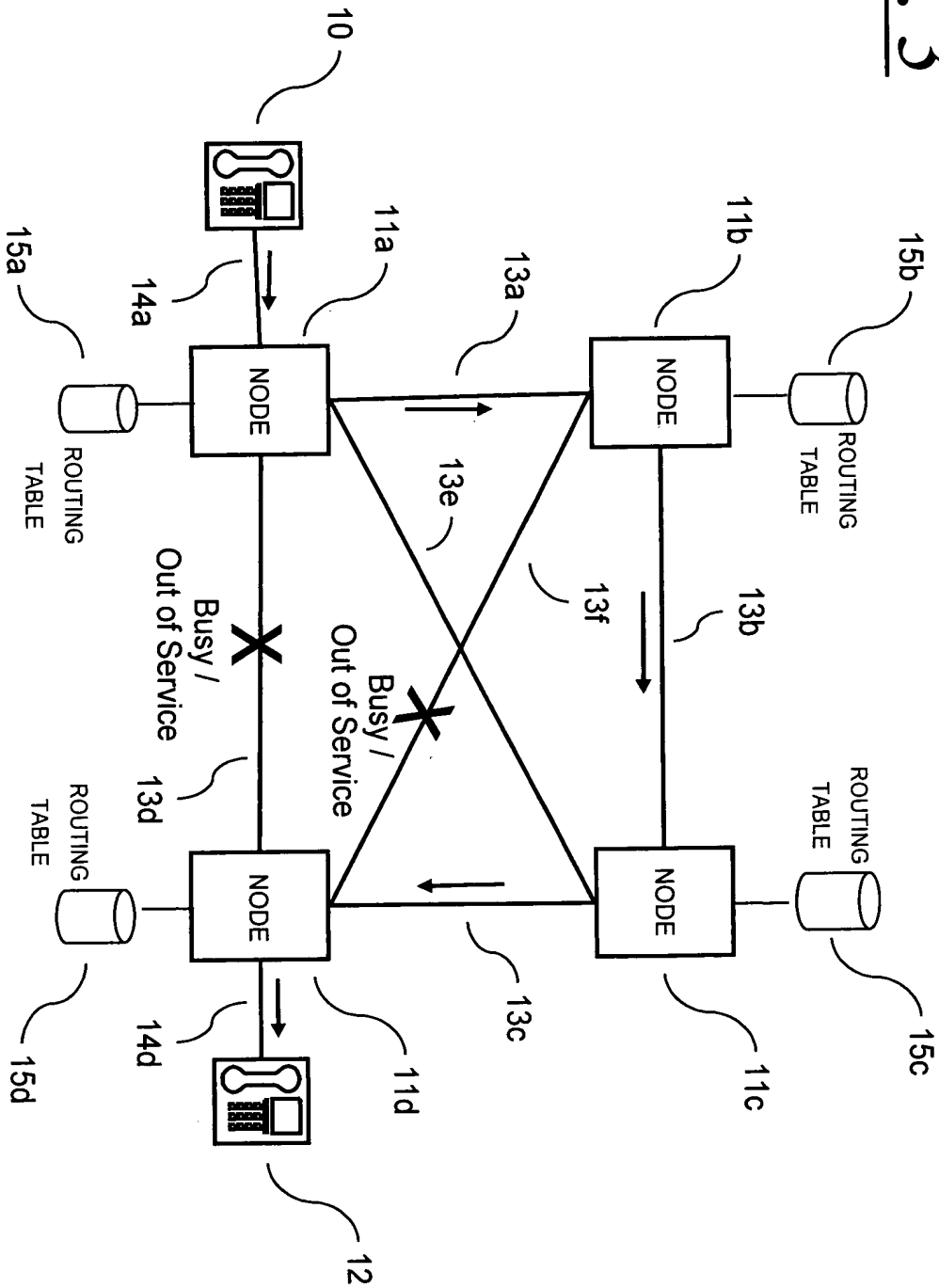


Fig. 6

